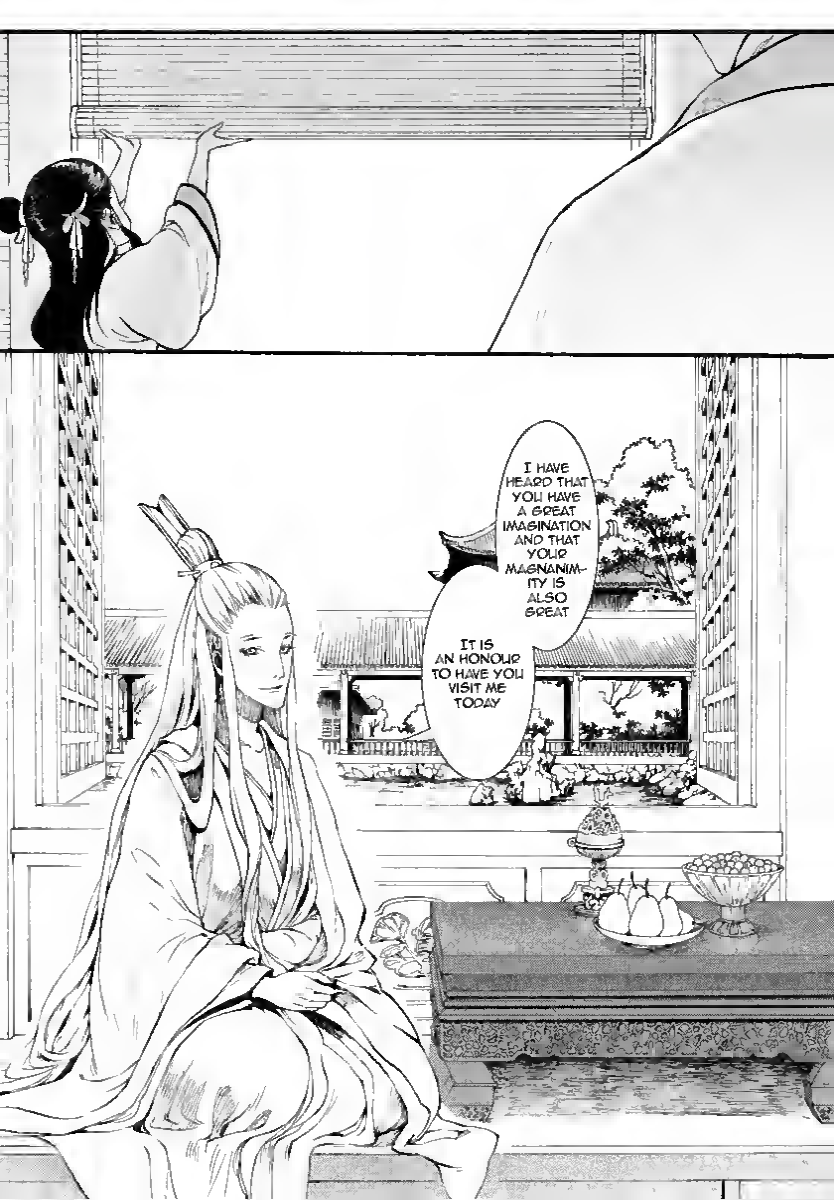
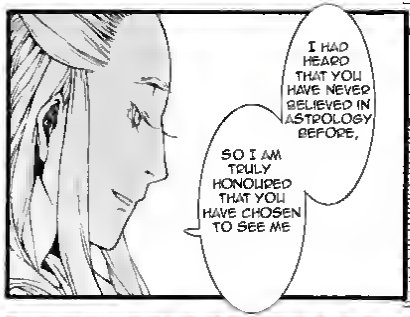
长歌行
CHANG GE XING
第二卷
绘熊夏迭

巻四
暗闘（前編）
HIDDEN WARS
(PART 1)

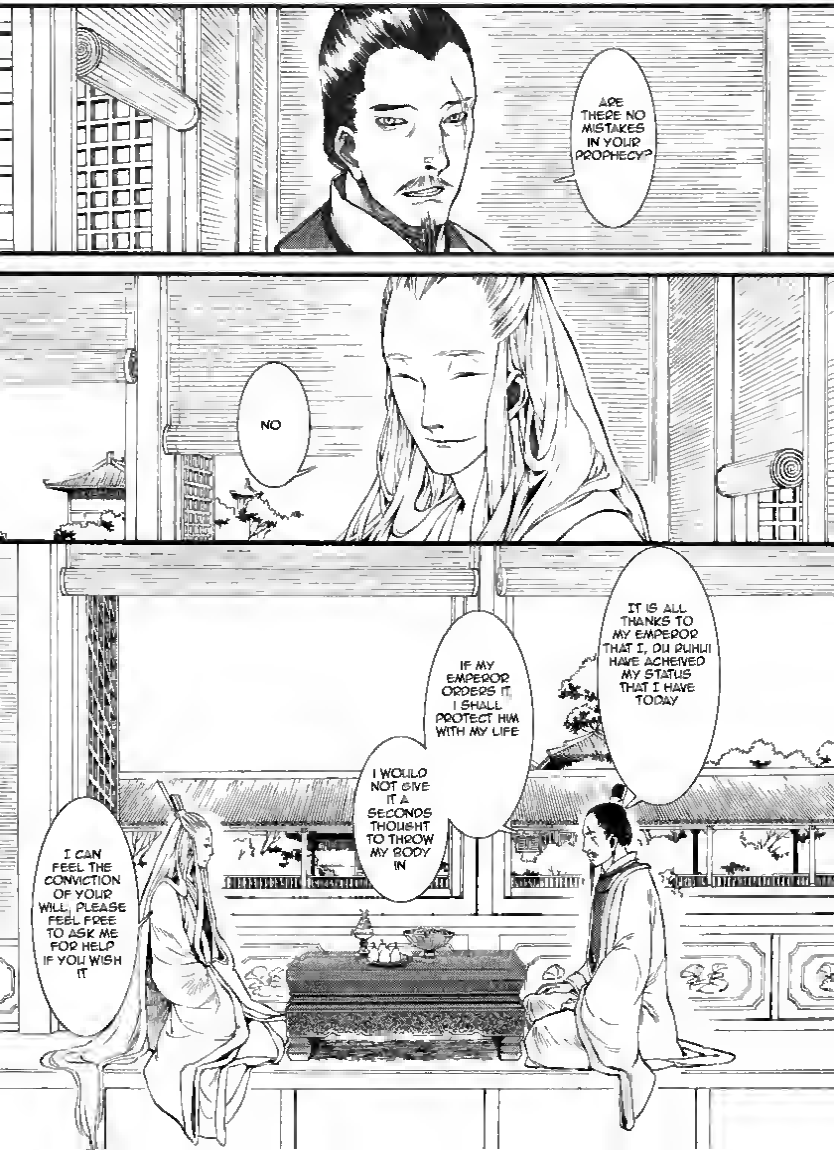
THE TEACHER HAS INFORMED ME THAT YOU HAD COME...
THIS WAY
WEL-COME MASTER DU RUHUI
.....


I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU HAVE A GREAT IMAGINATION AND THAT YOUR MAGNANIMITY IS ALSO GREAT
IT IS AN HONOUR TO HAVE YOU VISIT ME TODAY


I HAD HEARD THAT YOU HAVE NEVER BELIEVED IN ASTROLOGY BEFORE,
SO I AM TRULY HONOURED THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO SEE ME

YOU MADE A PROPHECY ABOUT THE "FEMALE SCOURGE" YESTERDAY?

THERE ARE MANY RUMOURS THAT YOU HAVE POWERS BEYOND THAT OF MAN
AS EXPECTED OF LI CHUNG FENG OF THE ASTROLOGY HALL


ARE THERE NO MISTAKES IN YOUR PROPHECY?
NO
IT IS ALL THANKS TO MY EMPEROR THAT I, OU PUHUI HAVE ACHEIVED MY STATUS THAT I HAVE TODAY
IF MY EMPEROR ORDERS IT I SHALL PROTECT HIM WITH MY LIFE
I WOULD NOT GIVE IT A SECONDS THOUGHT TO THROW MY BODY IN
I CAN FEEL THE CONVICTION OF YOUR WILL, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK ME FOR HELP IF YOU WISH IT

HAVE YOU HEARD OF A PERSON CALLED THE YONGNING PRINCESS DAUGHTER OF LI JIANCHENG?
THE PRINCESS THAT WAS KILLED IN THE XUANWU GATE INCIDENT?
YES
IN ACTUALITY SHE IS STILL ALIVE
I SEE...
I NOW UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE SO WORRIED.

YOU WANT TO MOVE THE SOLDIERS OUTSIDE?
YES
THE ENEMY HAS 50 000 STRONG. WE ONLY HAVE 30 000. WE'RE BARELY ABLE TO HOLD THEM OFF AS IT IS
SURELY WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEN TO SPARE TO ATTACK THEM?
DO YOU KNOW WHY THE TURKS ARE NOT MOVING THEIR SOLDIERS?
FOR ONE, THEY CANNOT CROSS THE RIVER BEFORE IT DRIES UP
AND THE OTHER REASON IS THAT THEY ARE STILL WAITING FOR THEIR WEAPONS TO ARRIVE

THANKS TO YOUR STRATEGY, WE WERE ABLE TO DESTROY THE FIRST WAVE OF ENEMIES
AND WE HAVE SLOWED THE MOMENTUM OF THE NEXT ASSAULT
THIS WAS A GOOD SCHEME THAT HAS BOUGHT US MUCH TIME
HOWEVER, MY PLOT HAS ONLY DELAYED THEIR ATTACK AS I AM SURE YOU KNOW
AND SO DO OUR ENEMIES
THE RIVER WILL SOON DRY UP SO WHAT THEN?
YES
IN THE PAST, THE SURROUNDING PROVINCES HELPED EACH OTHER OUT, BUT NOW, EVEN TRYING TO BORROW SOME SOLDIERS HAS GOTTEN DIFFICULT...

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO BY MOVING THE SOLDIERS OUTSIDE THE CITY WALLS?
BUT BACK TO THE MAIN SUBJECT AT HAND
OF COURSE, I WOULD NOT THINK OF PLAYING WITH THE LIVES OF MY LORD'S PRECIOUS SOLDIERS THIS IS MERELY A "DEFENSE" THAT IS MEANT TO LOOK LIKE AN "ATTACK"
I UNDERSTAND THE REASON WHY YOU CONCENTRATE ON DEFENSE IS BECAUSE YOU DO NOT WANT TO LOSE ANY OF THEM
EVERY SOLDIER IN THIS CITY IS A SOLDIER THAT MY LORD HAS PAINSTAKENLY RAISED AND TRAINED HIMSELF
IF THE ENEMY ATTACKS OUR SOLDIERS OUTSIDE THE SOLDIERS INSIDE THIS CITY WILL GO AND HELP, AND VICE VERSA FOR WHEN THE CITY IS ATTACKED
THIS WILL HAVE THE GREATEST EFFECT, DAMAGE WISE AND OUR CHANCES OF WINNING WILL INCREASE
PLEASE OBSERVE
WE SHALL PLACE 5000 SOLDIERS TO THE NORTH-EAST AND NORTH-WESTERN MOUNTAINS, TO MAKE A "HORN" FORMATION AROUND SHUO PROVINCE

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK, GOVERNOR SONG SUN?
THIS WILL GREATLY INCREASE OUR ARMIES MOVEMENT CAPABILITIES
AND IF THE SITUATION BECOMES UNFAVORABLE, OUR SOLDIERS WILL SIMPLY RETREAT INTO THE FORESTS AND LICK THEIR WOUNDS
YES
BUT WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I SAW MY FATHER COMMAND HIS ARMY AROUND
...ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE NEVER COMMANDED AN ARMY BEFORE?
BOTH GENERALS ARE EXPERIENCED AND ARE LOYAL TO YOU
I CAN DO THE MOST GOOD INSIDE THE CITY WALLS
VERY WELL
YOU ARE FREE TO USE ANY PERSON YOU WISH
THANK YOU
SET IT UP QUICKLY, BEFORE THE RIVER DRIES UP
WILL YOU BE COMMANDING THE
NO, BUT I RECOMEND GENERAL GUOLI OR GUONING FOR THIS TASK

SIR SIMA
YOU ARE DISMISSED
SIR
AN...
AN EMISSARY ?

IT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN CHANGAN THAT THIS WAR HAS ALREADY BEGUN IN THIS PLACE
CHANCELLOR DU SIMPLY WANTS TO KNOW THE CURRENT SITUATION
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE AN EMISSARY FROM CHANGAN?
I HAVE KEPT OUR ARMIES STATIONARY UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS
YES
AS PER CHANCELLOR DU'S SECRET ORDERS.
IF I COULD POSSIBLY RECEIVE SOME ORDERS
FURTHERMORE HE HAS RECRUITED A YOUNG STRATEGIST IN HIS RANKS AND HAS ALREADY GAINED A VICTORY
GONG SUN HENG OF SHUO PROVINCE HAS BEEN PRESSING ME TO BORROW MY TROOPS
HOW-EVER

THIS IS YOUR JOB. IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO GIVE YOU ANY ORDERS
HOWEVER, JUST REMEMBER NOT TO HAVE ANY PART OF THIS CONVERSATION LEAK OUT
Y-YES!
I WILL STAY NEARBY FOR A FEW DAYS
YOU JUST KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW
EMI-SARY
WILL TH TURKS REALLY...
DON'T ASK
CHANCELLOR DU HAS HIS RE-SONS. JUST KEEP DOING WHAT YOU WERE ORDERED TO DO BY HIM
THAT IS ALL...
.....

UM, UM, YOUNG NOBLEMAN
YOU ORDERED SO MANY SCOUTS. SO WHY ARE YOU KEEPING THEM INSIDE THE CITY WALLS?
AND YOU HAVE THEM ALL WRITE YOU SO MANY OF THESE REPORTS EVERY DAY. WHY IS THAT?
ONE MORE WORD OUT OF YOU AND I'LL RIP YOUR TONGUE OUT!
.....
ALRIGHT
ズ
YOU CAN READ, RIGHT
I LEARNED IT AT SCHOOL
HUH?
ギィ

THIS WILL BE OUR WORKPLACE FROM NOW ON
ALL THESE BOOKS CONTAIN INFORMATION AND YOUR JOB IS TO HELP ME SIFT THROUGH THESE BOOKS
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW OF COURSE
IS THIS THE LEGENDARY UNDER-GROUND PATH I'VE HEARD ABOUT?
I NEVER KNEW SUCH A PLACE REALLY EXISTED
I'LL EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR THIS WORK, LATER
FOR NOW THIS WILL BE OUR PLACE OF WORK
DON'T TALK ABOUT WHAT GOES ON IN THIS PLACE TO THE OUTSIDE EVER
UNDER-STOOD?
Y... YEAH
ALTHOUGH I STILL DON'T UNDERS-TAND WHAT'S GOING ON...

MASTER CHANGSE
I SAW A SUSPICIOUS LOOKING PERSON MIXED IN WITH THE REFUGEES AT THE NORTH GATE
AS PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, I FOLLOWED HIM SECRETLY
AND SAW HIM ENTER CAPTAIN SWA'S RESIDENCE
GOOD, KEEP UP YOUR SURVEILLANCE
BE SURE TO ONLY SHOW THEM WHAT WE WANT THEM TO SEE
YES SIR

HURRY UP AND BESONE FROM MY SIGHT, BEFORE I CALL SOMEONE!
YOU TURNED YOURSELF OVER TO THE TURKS
DON'T GET ME MIXED UP IN YOUR ACTIONS!
BROTHER SIMA, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK
I ALSO CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE, AND SO I RISKED MY LIFE TO COME AND SEE YOU
GONG SUN HENG IS PUTTING THE PEOPLE AT RISK WHILE CLAIMING IT'S FOR THE PEOPLE
ARE YOU TRULY GOING TO STAND BY AND DO NOTHING?
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT FROM ME?

THE TURKS ARE SIMPLY HUNGRY WOLVES, IF YOU THROW THEM A SHEEP, THEY WILL STOP, AND YET FIGHTING A WOLF WHILE IT'S HUNGRY IS THE WORST THING TO DO, IS IT NOT?
IF YOU LOSE ALL YOUR SOLDIERS FROM THE 4 PROVINCES JUST FOR ONE PROVINCE
THAT WOULD RUIN YOU
IF THE ADVANCE-MENT OF THE TURKS STOPS AT SHUO,
YOU GET TO CONTINUE BEING CAPTAIN, AND THIS BENEFITS ME AS WELL
.....
CAPTAIN, SIR GONGSUN HAS COME HERE TO SEE YOU
HAVE HIM WAIT IN THE MAIN HALL!

I UNDERSTAND, PLEASE GO AND GREET HIM
GO AND HIDE!
SIR GONG SUN, WHAT IS IT?
CAPTAIN
IF YOU'RE COMING TO ASK TO BORROW TROOPS, I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF THAT ALREADY!
CAPTAIN!

HMPH.
SO THIS IS THE RUMOURED NEW CAPTAIN OF YOURS?
SO YOUR NEW FOUND CONFI-DENCE IS THANKS TO THIS KID?

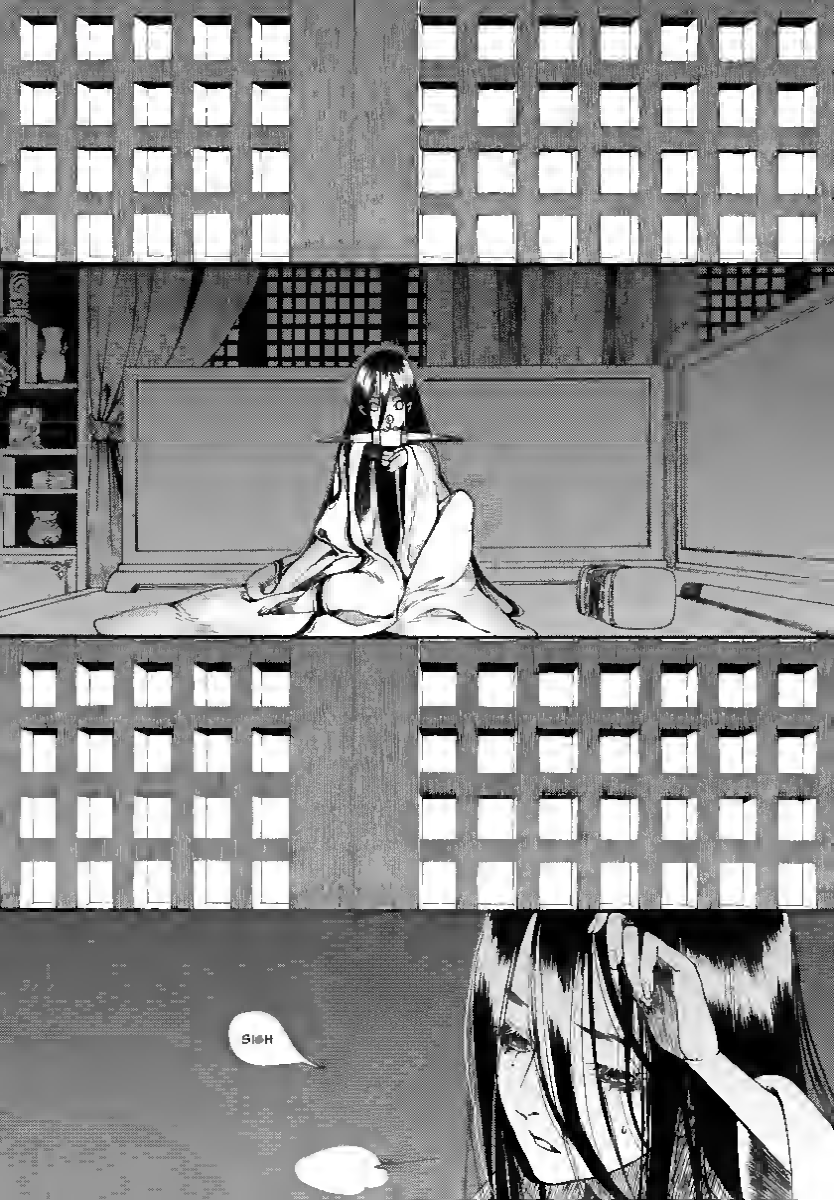
SURELY YOU JEST, CAPTAIN
OUR VICTORY WAS DUE TO THE LUCK, AT THE TIME, THE ADVANTAGE OF OUR LOCATION, AND OUR COMBINED EFFORTS
OUR CONFI-DENCE EXISTS ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE WITH US

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT HIS INTENT-IONS
BUT THE THING THAT IS CLEAR, IS THAT HE WILL NOT LEND US HIS TROOPS

STOP THE FLATT-ERY!
THINK ABOUT MY PROPOSAL, GONGSUN!

BE CARE-FUL
IF ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENS, REPORT IT TO ME
DON'T WORRY

AHEM


SIGH

I WILL NOT GO SCOURING ABOUT YOUR PAST OR ANYTHING ELSE
I SUSPECT THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LEAKED THE INFO ABOUT THE WIFE'S TRIP?
NOT MANY CAN TRUST SOMEONE WHO IS FAKING THEIR OWN GENDER
I DO NOT CARE WHAT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE
AS LONG AS YOU ARE NOT PUTTING SONGSUN FAMILY IN HARM'S WAY, I WILL NOT GET IN YOUR WAY

YOU ARE SMART ENOUGH TO UNDER-STAND THIS...
SO THIS IS ALL I SHALL SAY ABOUT THE MATTER

EMIS-SARY?
EM...
I FAILED
WHAT?
THERE WAS A TRULY FEARSOME OPPONENT RESIDING AT THE PROVINC-IAL OFFICE
IT APPEARS THAT THIS WILL TAKE A LITTLE LONGER THAT I HAD THOUGHT

BUT IF IT WAS HARD FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, THEN
BROTHER SIMA
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?
SURELY WE DO NOT NEED TO KEEP THINGS FROM EACH OTHER IF WE ARE TO WORK TOGETHER TO HATCH A SCHEME?
IF OUR ASSASSIN-ATION ATTEMPT HAS FAILED, THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO COME UP WITH A NEW PLAN OF ACTION
ARE YOU NOT AWARE THAT YOU ARE BEING WATCHED? SONG SUN HENG SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED
IF WE DO NOT SUCCEED, THEN YOUR LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER, ALSO
WILL THE SOLDIERS HERE FOLLOW YOU, THE MAIN CAPTAIN, OR WILL THEY FOLLOW THE GOVERNOR OF A DISTANT PROVINCE?
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT..?

I'VE CAUGHT ONE OF THEIR DOGS
WHY DON'T WE ASK HIM THAT VERY SAME QUESTION?
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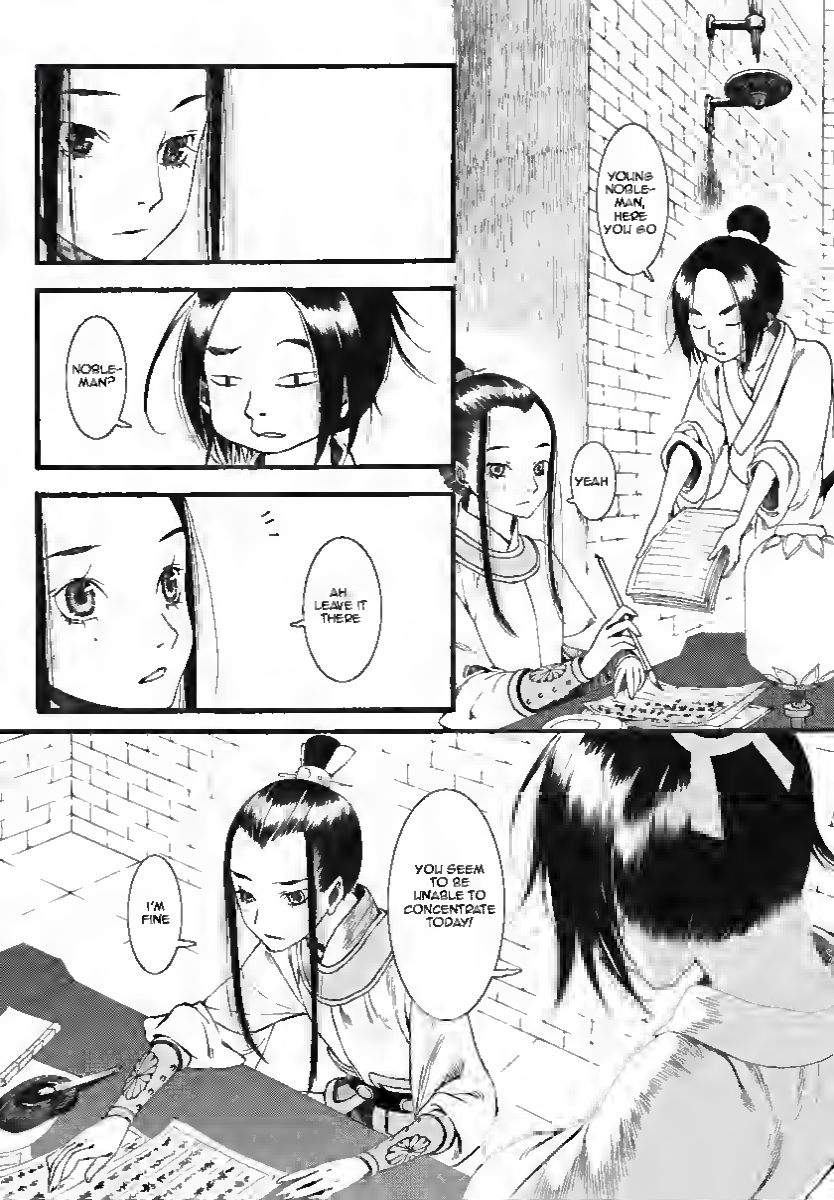

YOUNG NOBLE-MAN, HERE YOU GO
YEAH
AH, LEAVE IT THERE
NOBLE-MAN?
YOU SEEM TO BE UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE TODAY!
I'M FINE

MY MIND IS SORTA HAZY...
PROBABLY BECAUSE I COULDN'T SLEEP WELL, YESTERDAY...
I'LL GO CALL THE DOCTOR!
DON'T!
I DON'T NEED A DOCTOR
GIVE THIS TO GOVERNOR SONG SUN
I GOT IT
GIVE IT TO HIM DIRECTLY
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAVE GONE WRONG...

IS THERE SOMEONE WHO IS LEAKING INFORMATION!?

MASTER CHANG GE...
I'M SORRY...
YOU WERE FOUND OUT?
SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY, BUT FOUGHT MY WAY OUT AND ESCAPED
IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO GET RID OF THOSE WHO WERE FOLLOWING
VERY WELL
HURRY UP AND HAVE THOSE INJURIES LOOKED

IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF YOU DON'T GO OUT FOR A WHILE
YES
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
!!

フッ
長歌行 壱（完）
CHOUKAKOU VOLUME 1 COMPLETE

AIZEN HERE

TO THOSE WHO
WERE NICE
ENOUGH TO NOTICE,
I CHANGED THE
FONT THANKS
TO A SUGGESTION
BY A READER.

PLEASE TELL ME
IF THIS FONT
IS MORE EASIER
ON THE EYES OR NOT

DEPENDING ON THE
FEEDBACK, I WILL
EITHER CHANGE THE
FONT BACK TO
WHAT IT WAS, OR KEEP IT

ALSO, YAY, VOLUME 1
IS FINISHED.

cover design 森田彩美(POCKET)

巻五
暗闇(後編)
HIDDEN WARS (PART 2)
THE TURKS
朔州
SHUO PROVINCE
YELLOW RIVER
黄河
CHANGAN
長安
LUO YANG
洛陽
TANG
長江
YANGTZE RIVER

SHUO PROVINCE
PROVINCIAL OFFICE
SOVEIN-NOR GONG SUN
WE'VE SEARCHED AROUND THE CITY, BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND CAPTAIN LI CHANGGE
THE GUARDS AT THE GATE HAVE ALSO NOT SEEN HIM EITHER
.....
HOW CAN SOMEONE DISSAPEAR LIKE THIS!
FIND HIM!
YES SIR!
SIR,
THERE'S A RUMOUR GOING AROUND IN THE CITY...

...THAT CAPTAIN LI GOT SCARED AND RAN AWAY... BECAUSE WE HAVE NO CHANCE AT WINNING THIS FIGHT
FURTH-ERMORE...
THERE ARE ALSO RUMOURS THAT HE WAS A SPY, SENT BY THE TURKS...
DO YOU BELIEVE THE RUMOURS?
I DO NOT BLINDLY BELIEVE IN RUMOURS, BUT...
IT'S TRUE THAT THE CIRCUM-STANCES ARE SUSPICIOUS...
THAT'S ENOUGH. DISMISSED
SIR
GOVERNOR SONG SUN HERE IS THE WINE YOU ORDERED

NOPE
SHEESH, YOU TWO
...
NOTHING FAZES YOU, DOES IT
YOU'RE NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE YOUNG NOBLEMAN?

WE'VE ARRIVED
IF WE TIE ROCKS TO HIM, AND THROW HIM IN THE RIVER...
HIS BODY WON'T FLOAT UP FOR ANOTHER HALF A MONTH
HURRY IT UP
WHEN YOU FINISH MASTER SIMA WILL GIVE YOU YOUR REWARD
RIGHT

Y, YOU...
ARGH!

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE REWARDS OF YOUR MASTER
HOWEVER, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE REWARDS THAT MY MASTER WILL OFFER YOU IN RETURN FOR YOUR SERVICE?
DAMN IT
YOU WERE JUST ACTING AS THOUGH YOU HAD CONCEDED.
BUT YOU WON'T BE ALIVE FOR LONG
IF I DON'T RETURN, THEY'LL KNOW THAT SOMETHINGS UP!

IF YOU LET ME GO SAFELY, I PROMISE YOU WON'T BE HURT
SO, HOW ABOUT IT?
YOUNG MASTER...
PLEASE WAKE UP AND DO YOUR JOB
WANGDE BIAO, BORN IN LUO YANG. SERVED UNDER SIMA KANG FOR OVER 10 YEARS. AND IS WELL TRUSTED
YOUR WIFE, ZHAO, DIED EARLY ON, AND YOU ARE CARING FOR YOUR TWO DAUGHTERS, WHOM OU LOVE DEARLY
THEY ARE CURRENTLY LIVING WITH YOUR MOTHER IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE HOUSING DISTRICT... BUT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HOME LATELY HAVE YOU?
WH...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONT TO MY FAMILY!?

DON'T WORRY
IF YOU DO AS I SAY, YOUR FAMILY WILL BE FINE
YOU BASTARD!
BUT TO THINK THAT HIS UNDERLING WAS THIS DIRTY AND TWISTED!
GONG SUN HENG IS ALWAYS SO PROUD ABOUT HOW NOBLE AND FAIRLY HE CONDUCTS HIS AFFAIRS
SO, WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE TO DO?
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE MOST DEEDS IN THIS PLAN
IF WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY CARRY THIS OUT
THEN MY BEATING WOULD HAVE BEEN WORTH IT
HOWEVER, YOU ARE TOO RECKLESS
TO BET YOUR LIFE ON SOMEONE LIKE ME, WHO YOU HAVE ONLY KNOWN FOR HALF A MONTH
I BET MY LIFE ON THE FACT THAT YOU TRULY ARE LOYAL TO GOVERNOR GONG SUN
AND IT LOOKS LIKE I WON THE BET
LET'S GO
IT'S GOVERNOR GONG SUN'S TURN, NOW

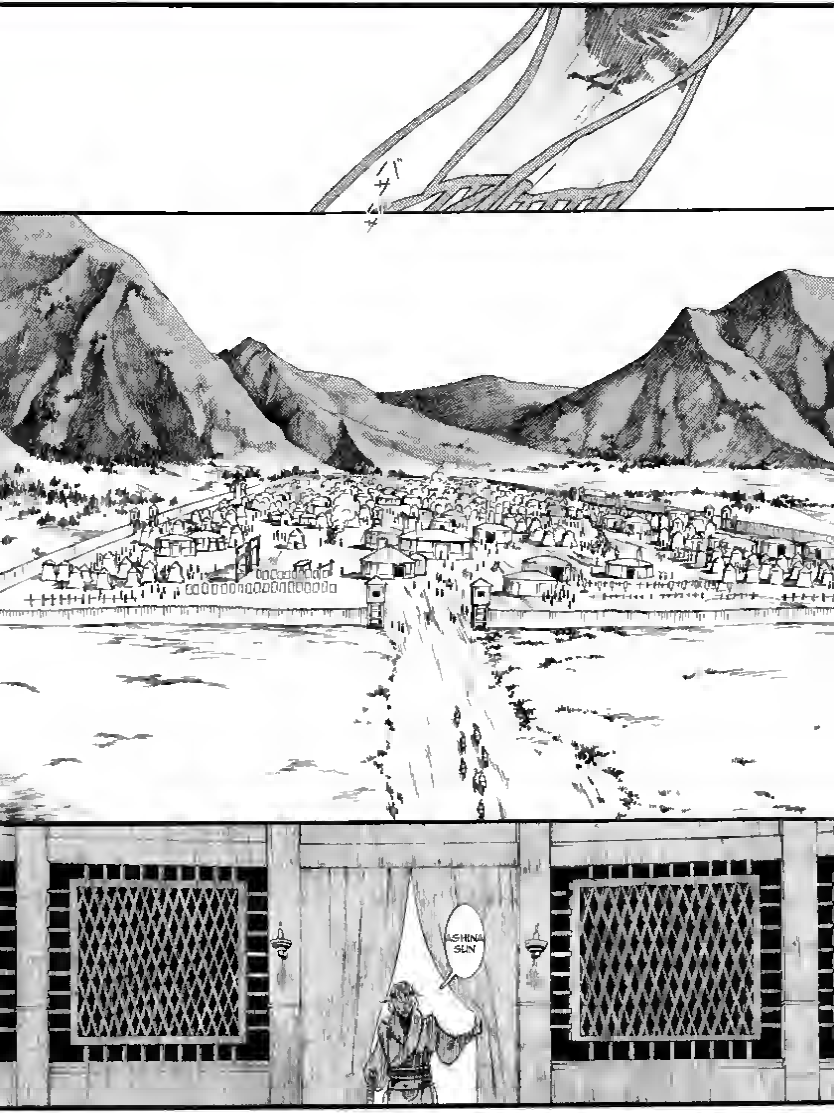
HEH SO THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE BEEN
SHIJO PROVINCE
WHY ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO CAME BACK?
WHAT HAPP-ENED?
AS PER YOUR ORDERS
WE DROPPED CAPTAIN LI INTO THE RIVER, TIED WITH ROCKS
HOWEVER, HE STRUGGLED, AND ONE OF US DIED THE OTEHR WAS GRAVELY INJURED
HOWEVER, SIR DO NOT WORRY, WE HAVE TAKEN CARE OF EVERYTHING
GOOD
YOU'RE DISMISSED

THE RUMOURS OF CAPTAIN LI'S "BETRAYAL" IS ALL OVER THE CITY
OUR PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE
THE REST IS UP TO YOU, CAPTAIN
HMPH!
HEY, HAVE MY CARRIAGE READY!
PROVINCIAL OFFICE

GONG SUN HENG, DO YOU ADMIT YOUR CRIMES!
CAP-TAIN...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY MY CRIMES...
WELL THEN, I'LL ASK YOU...
WHERE IS THAT LITTLE KID RIGHT NOW?
DON'T LIE TO ME!!
CAP-TAIN, PLEASE FORGIVE US
THAT PERSON HAS NO TIES TO GONG SUN HENG...
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!!

I HAVE NO EXCUSES TO MAKE
THIS WAS MY MISTAKE
PLEASE, CAPTAIN HAVE MERCY,
AND PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF THIS CITY!
IF YOU LISTEN TO ME AND GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT, WE CAN AVOID A WAR
AND POSSIBLY SAVE THIS CITY AND IT'S INHABITANTS
WE WERE NO MATCH AGAINST THE ARMY OF THE TURKS FROM THE BEGINNING
WE'LL SET ASIDE WHETHER THAT CAPTAIN LI RAN AWAY SCARED OR WHETHER HE BETRAYED US BUT...
MY MIND HAD BEEN CONFUSED UP UNTIL NOW...
TRUTHFULLY,

THEREFORE I SHALL FOLLOW WHATEVER ORDERS YOU GIVE ME
AH WELL..
OF COURSE I'LL HELP YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO BE MORE DOCILE FROM NOW ON
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY
HOWEVER WITH REGARDS TO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS ..
I HAVE BEEN THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN SO STUBBORN UNTIL NOW
AND I AM ASHAMED TO BE THE ONE WHO GOES OUT TO MEET WITH THEM
SINCE YOU ARE THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE FORCES IN THIS CITY, I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD BE THE ONE TO GREET THEM OUTSIDE THE CITY WALLS...
HAHAHA, OF COURSE, OF COURSE.
SEND THEM A LIST OF TRIBUTES THAT WE WILL BE SENDING THEM, RIGHT AWAY
YES
I APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY


バサッ
ASHINA SUN

HEY, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
THIS IS THE LIST OF STUFF THAT THE HAN ARE GIVING US IN RETURN FOR THEIR PEACEFUL SURRRENDER
OH
THERES QUITE A LOT OF STUFF SHUO PROVINE IS POSSESSIOUS
IF YOU HAD LET ME DO WHAT I WANTED WE COULD'VE TAKEN MORE...
YOU DON'T LIKE THE OUTCOME OF THIS?
DO YOU?

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE BORED OUT OF YOUR MIND, BUT
PLEASE BEAR WITH ME FOR JUST A BIT LONGER
SINCE THIS IS A MISSION FROM THE GREAT KHAN HIMSELF
AND BESIDES,
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME WHO ARE WATCHING YOU TO SEE IF YOU WILL FAIL IN THIS TASK
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JUST TO STRETCH MY LEGS
ポキ

STRETCH YOUR WHERE!? WHAT DAY AND PLACE DO YOU WANT TO MEET THEM AT FOR THEIR SURRENDER?
LINE OUR SOLDIERS INFRONT OF THEIR CITY WALL!
THE USUAL PLACE

MILITARY CAPTAIN SIMA KANG HAS COME ON BEHALF OF SHUO GOVERNOR GONG SUN HENG
TO OFFER OUR SURRENDER
THE HEAVENS DO NOT FAVOR THE DEATHS OF IT'S CITIZENS
LORD ASHINA, PLEASE SHOW MERCY TO THE POPULACE

ACCEPT OUR SURR-ENDER
WE WILL PLEASE ASK THAT YOU
YES
BRING IT TO ME

PLEASE VIEW THEM OVER
THIS IS THE LIST OF ITEMS WE WILL SEND IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR SURRENDER
SHA

GET BACK!!
M, MY LORD!?

WAH, IT'S AN AMB-USH!!
THAT THEY HAD PLANNED THIS...
G GENERAL I, I HAD NO IDEA

THERE ARE SOLDIERS OF HAN OUTSIDE THE CITY WALLS AS WELL!!
THERE IS NO WAY THAT SOLDIERS COULD'VE BEEN OUTSIDE THE CITY WALLS!
THIS IS NO DOUBT THE WORK OF THAT CAPTAIN LI!!

WHO SENT YOU TO SPY ON US?
WAS IT THE GREAT KHAN? OR THE LESSER KHAN?
HUH?
IN ANY CASE, YOU GAVE US A GOOD EXCUSE TO KILL YOU

WE WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO TAKE THE ENEMY GENERAL'S HEAD!
HAHA! IT REALLY WORKED OUT WELL, AS YOU PLANNED, CAPTAIN!
THE REST OF OUR 1000 TROOPS, BRING FIRE ARROWS AND HIT THEIR MAIN CAMP!!
SEND OUT A FAST MESSENGER
I WILL END THIS HERE AND NOW

THE TURKS KILLED CAPTAIN SWA, WHO WENT OUT TO OFFER TERMS OF SURRENDER.
AND WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFEND SHUO PROVINCE, AND THEREFORE REQUEST MILITARY AID
WHAT ABOUT OUR REPORT TO THE IMPERIAL COURT?
IT LOOKS LIKE CAPTAIN LI'S SCHEME WORKED OUT WELL
WE WERE FOOLED, TOO, SO
WELL, IN ORDER TO FOOL YOUR ENEMY, YOU MUST FIRST FOOL YOUR ALLIES
GOVERNOR GONGSUN!
IT'S A VICTORY! A HUGE VICTORY!
.....
NO, WE MUST'NT
WE LET THE ENEMY GENERAL ESCAPE, BUT OUR MORALE IS OF THE HIGHEST RIGHT NOW SO WE SHOULD CHASE AFTER THEM!
CAPTAIN LI'S TACTICS WERE TRULY AMAZING, I HAVE NOTHING BUT ADMIRATION FOR HIS ABILITIES

SIR, PLEASE GIVE THE ORDER
WE MUST STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSES AT THE WALL, AND CALL BACK OUR OUTLYING FORCES
BUT THE TURKS ARE IN FULL RETREAT. WHY GIVE SUCH AN ORDER?
WE WERE, AS PLANNED ABLE TO TRAP THE ENEMY, AND HAD THE UPPER HAND IN OUR BATTLE
I INTENDED TO GET THE ENEMY GENERALS HEAD, AND AT THE VERY LEAST, BURN THEIR FOOD SUPPLY
HOWEVER, EVEN WITH OUR ADVANTAGE, WE LET THE ENEMY GENERAL ESCAPE.
AND WE MET RESISTANCE AT THEIR BASE AND COULD NOT ACCOMPLISH MUCH
GOVERNOR GONG SUN
I FEAR THAT I MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT

OUR LOSSES WERE SMALL BUT
FOR A SECOND THERE WE SURE WERE IN TROUBLE
IT WAS SUCH A DIRTY TACTIC, BUT
IT WAS WELL WORTH THE FIGHT
I TOLD YOU, THE HAN FIGHT DIRTY, RIGHT?

GET SOME INFO ON THIS CAPTAIN LI
I'VE ALREADY GOT PEOPLE ON IT
HIS STRATEGY AND TACTICS ARE GOOD, BUT HE IS MISSING ONE VITAL THING
メラメラ
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A SMALL VICTORY HE STILL WON AGAINST YOU, I DOUBT THIS PERSON IS COMPLETELY UNHEARD OF
HOW-EVER, UNFORT-UNATELY
HOW DID YOU FIND THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE HAN, AS?
PFF THEY WERE PATHE-TIC

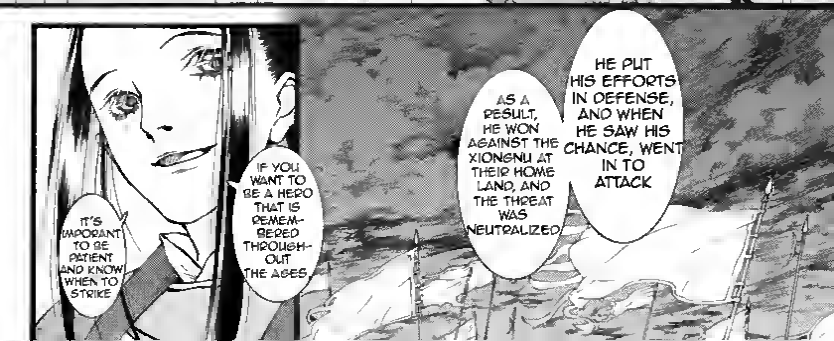
巻六
漢人と突厥
THE HAN AND THE TURKS
COUGH
COUGH
YOUNG NOBLE-MAN
YOU HAVE A COLD, AND YET YOU OPENED THE WINDOWS UP?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

HAS GOVERNOR GONG SUN MADE A MOVE YET...?
HE SAID FOR YOU TO REST EASY AND THAT HE WILL CONTACT US IF SOMETHING HAPPENS.
.....
OKAY...
YOUNG NOBLEMAN, I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WANT TO DO
YOU WANT TO INCREASE YOUR RANK HERE, CREATE AN ARMY, AND MAKE THIS PLACE YOUR BASE OF OPERATIONS. RIGHT?
BUT SIR GONG SUN DOESN'T KNOW OF YOUR PLANS. SO HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE THIS WORK?
OH
YOU'VE IMPROVED
YOU'RE FINALLY USING THAT BRAIN OF YOURS

GOVERNOR GONGSUN ISN'T GOING TO STOP ME.
BUT HE SURELY WON'T FOLLOW YOUR PLAN TO ASSA-SSINATE THE EMPEROR.
IT'S ONLY BEEN 9 YEARS SINCE THE TANG DYNASTY HAS BEEN FOUNDED.
EVER SINCE THE WAR OF THE FIVE BARBARIANS UP UNTIL THE SUI DYNASTY, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY WARS AND MANY EMPERORS
GOVERNOR GONGSUN HAS BEEN HERE SINCE THE SUI DYNASTY AND EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE TANG DYNASTY TODAY,
AS LONG AS THE SHUO PROVINCE IS STABLE,
HE WON'T CARE IF THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR IS LI OR YANG OR WHOEVER, RIGHT?
I SEE...
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE DID AGREE TO KILL SIR

MAN, THEY MAKE ME ANGRY
THEY JUST COME OUT AND ATTACK WHENEVER THEY FEEL LIKE IT. IT GETS TIRESOME TO KEEP HAVING TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM
BUT THE TURKS HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY ATTACKING SHUO PROVINCE, SINCE THE TURKS HAVE NO LAND THEY CALL HOME

※1 黄河中下流域の平原。
※2 前漢時代の武将。
UNTIL GENERAL QUO HUBING ARRIVED.
IN THE LAST AGE OF HAN THE CENTRAL PRAIRIES STRUGGLED AGAINST CONSTANT ATTACKS FROM THE XIONGNU
*TL NOTE: XIONGNU IS A NOMADIC TRIBE THAT USED TO LIVE IN NORTH CHINA
.....


IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE PATIENT AND KNOW WHEN TO STRIKE
IF YOU WANT TO BE A HERO THAT IS REMEMBERED THROUGHOUT THE AGES
AS A RESULT, HE WON AGAINST THE XIONGNU AT THEIR HOME LAND, AND THE THREAT WAS NEUTRALIZED
HE PUT HIS EFFORTS IN DEFENSE, AND WHEN HE SAW HIS CHANCE, WENT IN TO ATTACK

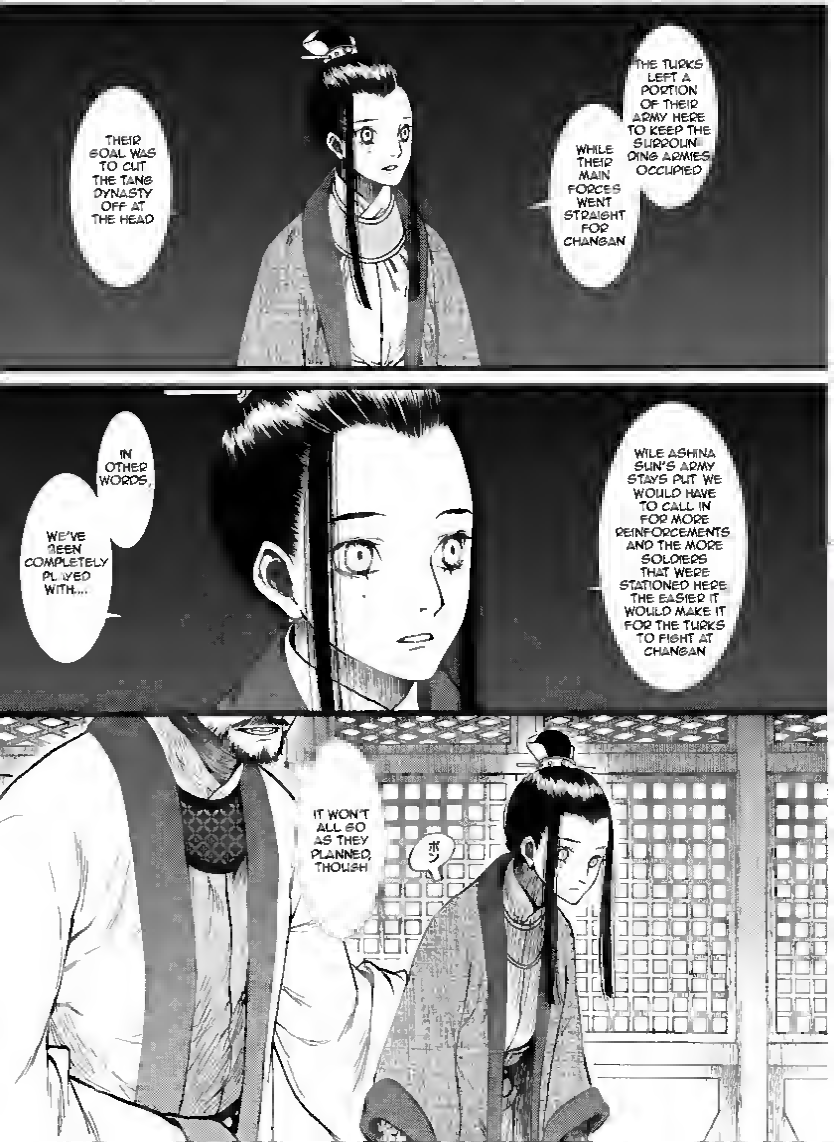
MASTER LI
MASTER SONG SUN HAS CALLED FOR YOU
NOBLE-MAN
I WILL DEFINATELY FIGHT THE TURKS AS WELL
UNDER-STOOD
OH GREAT GENERAL
WELL, I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR YOU TO START FIGHTING
YEAH, LEAVE IT TO ME

ASHINA SUN, IS THE ADOPTED SON OF THE GREAT KHAN,
AND IS A VERY PROMISING AND BRAVE KHAN HIMSELF
HE'S BEEN FIGHTING OTHER CLANS IN THE NORTH-WEST, AND HASN'T LOST A SINGLE BATTLE
LOOKS LIKE WE WERE UNDER-ESTIMATING OUR OPPONENT
ゴホ
ゴホ
IT'S STRANGE
BEFORE, I THOUGHT THAT THEY HAD STOPPED MOVING, BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID OF OUR TACTICS
BUT NOW THAT THEY KNOW OUR MILITARY STRENGTH IS NOT SO LARGE
WHAT EXACTLY ARE OUR ENEMIES WAITING FOR?

IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT WE COULD NOT BORROW ANY TROOPS
THIS WAS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE THEM, BUT...
YOU'RE RIGHT, WE FINALLY HAD SIMA KANG OUT OF THE WAY
BUT THE TROOPS AT YOU AND BING PROVINCE, DISAPPEARED
THEY WERE ORDERED BY CHANGAN
TO RETREAT FROM THE OUTLYING PROVINCES, 10 DAYS AGO
THE TURKS AREN'T MOVING,
AND THE OUTLYING SOLDIERS WERE ORDERED TO WITHDRAW, FOR SOME REASON
ARE THE TWO CONNECTED SOMEHOW?

COULD IT BE.....
NO WAY
SIR!
WE HAVE AN EMER-GENCY REPORT!

WHY HAS IT TAKEN US THIS LONG TO RECEIVE THIS INFO!?
THE SPEED AT WHICH THE TURKS WERE MOVING, WAS EXTREMELY FAST.
AND WHEN WE HAD LEARNED OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS THEY WERE ALREADY 15 MILES AWAY FROM QING!
THE MAIN FORCES OF THE TURKS, 100,000 STRONG,
HAVE BROKEN THROUGH THE QING PROVINCE AND ARE HEADED TO CHANGAN!!
SHUO PROVINCE
朔州
QING PROVINCE
涇州
CHONGAN
長安
AS I THOUGHT


THEIR GOAL WAS TO CUT THE TANG DYNASTY OFF AT THE HEAD
WHILE THEIR MAIN FORCES WENT STRAIGHT FOR CHANGAN
THE TURKS LEFT A PORTION OF THEIR ARMY HERE TO KEEP THE SURROUNDING ARMIES OCCUPIED
IN OTHER WORDS,
WE'VE BEEN COMPLETELY PLAYED WITH....
WILE ASHINA SUN'S ARMY STAYS PUT WE WOULD HAVE TO CALL IN FOR MORE REINFORCEMENTS AND THE MORE SOLDIERS THAT WERE STATIONED HERE, THE EASIER IT WOULD MAKE IT FOR THE TURKS TO FIGHT AT CHANGAN
IT WON'T ALL GO AS THEY PLANNED, THOUGH
ポン

YOU'RE STILL YOUNG
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE SOME OF THE STUFF FOR THE REST OF US OLDIES TO HANDLE
NOW THEN WHAT IS IT THAT WE SHOULD BE DOING, RIGHT NOW?
.....
ASHINA SUN'S ARMY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THEIR GOAL SO NOTHING STOPS THEM FROM ATTACKING US NOW
THEY WILL MOST DEFINATELY COME AND ATTACK US SO WE MUST DO OUR BEST AND DEFEND
DEF-ENCE
I'LL LEAVE THIS UP TO YOU
YES SIR

CAPTAIN LI IS OF UNKOWN ORIGIN
AND HAD SUDDENLY APPEARED INFRONT OF SONS SUN HENG A MONTH AGO

ALL OF THE TACTICS HAVE COME FROM HIM
SONG SUN HENG HAS GIVEN HIM CONTROL OF HIS ARMY
DO YOU REMEMBER OUR FIRST BATTLE?
OF COURSE, WHO COULD FORGET
YOU WERE, AT THE TIME, 9 YEARS OLD WIELDING A SWORD LONGER THAN YOUR BODY, AND DRANK 2 JARS OF WINE
WHY THE SUDDEN REMINISCING OF THE PAST?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE FOUGHT AGAINST THE HAN

LET'S LEAVE THAT CAPTAIN LI ALIVE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW YOU THIS HAPPY
DID THE KHAN PUNCH THROUGH QING?

WITH THIS, OUR PURPOSE FOR BEING HERE IS COMPLETE
YES
LET'S GO

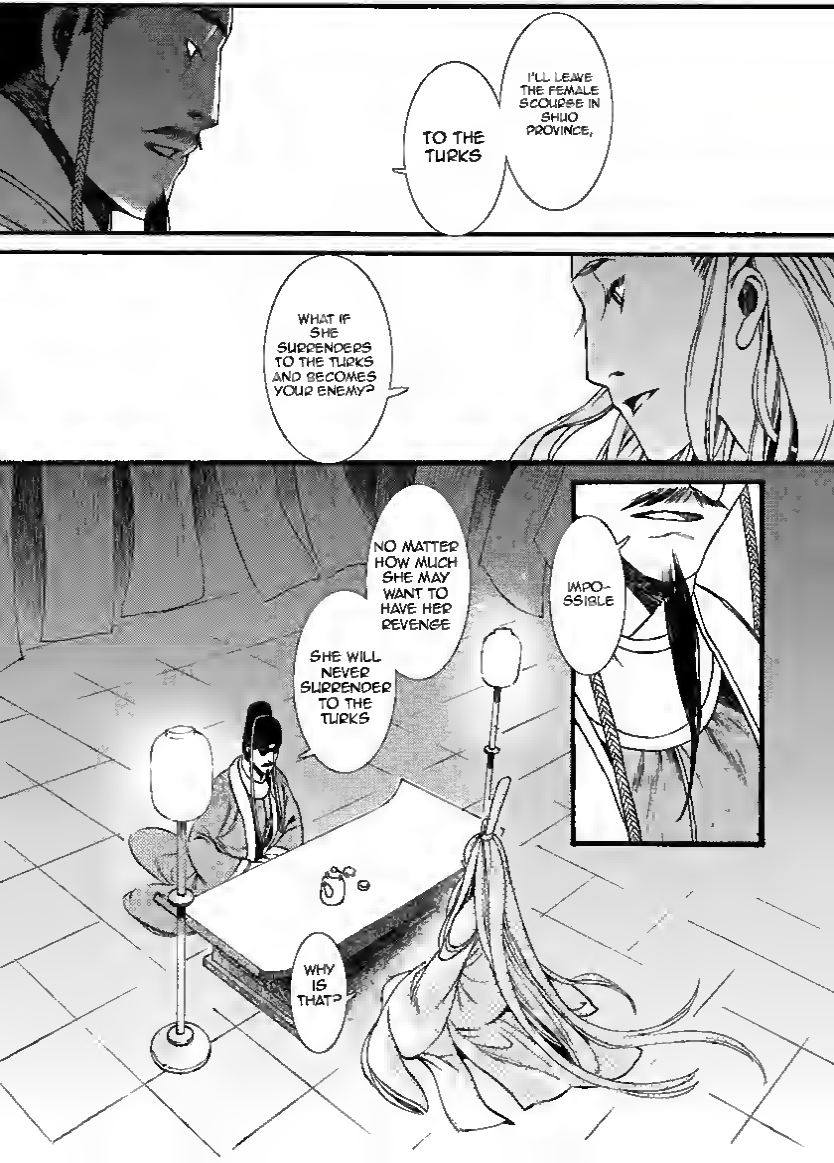
ALRIGHT!
LET'S GET IT ON!!

TAKE DOWN SHUO PROV-INCE!
WE'RE TAKING SHUO PROV-INCE!

CHONGAN
ASTRO-
LOGY
HALL
MASTER DU RUHUI, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY, BEING HERE?

A FORCE OF 100,000 TURKS ARE NEARING CHANGAN
YET THE MILITARY ADVISOR, IS HERE DRINKING WINE
THOUGHT IT WOULD BE RUDE OF ME NOT TO THANK YOU
AFTER YOU HELPED ME FIND THE PERSON I WAS LOOKING FOR
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
WHICH ONE, THE BATTLE, OR THE GIRL?
BOTH

10 DAYS AGO, I HAD THE OUTLYING SOLDIERS RETURN HERE TO CHANGAN IN A SECRET MEMORANDUM
I HAD FELT A STRANGE MOVEMENT FROM THE TURKS, SO I COVERED MY BASES, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO BE THIS QUICK
IF THE SOLDIERS COME HERE IN TIME, THEN WE WILL FIGHT.... IF NOT....
THEN I WILL JUST DIE LONGSIDE MY EMPEROR
LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE UNWAVERING IN YOUR FAITH
I TRUST MY EMPEROR


I'LL LEAVE THE FEMALE SCOURGE IN SHUO PROVINCE,
TO THE TURKS
WHAT IF SHE SURRENDERS TO THE TURKS AND BECOMES YOUR ENEMY?
IMPO-SSIBLE
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE MAY WANT TO HAVE HER REVENGE
SHE WILL NEVER SURRENDER TO THE TURKS
WHY IS THAT?

BECAUSE SHE IS A PRINCESS OF TANG
INTER-ESTING
ドン
ドン
ドン
DOOR
DOOR
.....

THOSE DRUMS ARE THE SIGNAL FOR YOU TO GATHER
YOU SHOULD GET GOING
SIR LI CHUNG FENG
WHAT IS THE FATE OF THIS BATTLE?
DO YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT THE HEAVENS SAY?
ドン
ドン
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT BELIEF THAT I FOUND OUT WHERE THE PRINCESS WAS

DO NOT WORRY
THE HEAVENS WILL FAVOR THE TANG
AND THE COUNTRY WILL PROSPER FOR A LONG TIME

AIZEN HERE

ENJOY

卷七 大義

GREATER GOOD

HURRY!
HURRY UP!
CALL IN MORE PEOPLE TO HELP!
CAPTAIN LI!
THE WAR BETWEEN SHUO PROVINCE AND THE TURKS WAS SEVERE, AND BOTH SIDES HAD GAINED SEVERAL CASUALTIES
HOWEVER, AS WINTER CAME, THE VICTOR STILL HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED, AND WITH THE MASSIVE AMOUNT OF SNOWFALL, CAME A SHORT PERIOD OF PEACE

COUGH
LEAVE THAT TO THE CIVILIANS
SIR
THE REPAIRS OF THE CITY WALLS ARE...
WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THE TURKS WILL ATTACK US AGAIN, WE MUST REPAIR THE WALLS IMMEDIATELY
WE'VE RECEIVED SOME LEEWAY TO REPAIR THANKS TO THE SUDDEN WAVE OF SNOW
YES SIR
THIS WAY, THIS WAY

WHAT ARE THEY FIGHTING ABOUT?
IT'S MINE!
LET GO OF IT!
YOU ARE PROBABLY UNAWARE OF THIS, BUT
GOVERNOR GONG SUN, HAS INSTIGATED A RULE WHERE CIVILIANS CAN TRADE WEAPONS IN FOR FOOD
FOR ONE, IT HELPS THE MILITARY SAVE ON TIME TO HAVE TO RETRIEVE IT OURSELVES, AND FOR ANOTHER, IT HELPS THE LIVES OF CIVILIANS
COUGH
COUGH
WE'RE CLOSING THE GATES
NOT THIS TIME AROUND, HURRY AND CALL THEM BACK IN TO THE CITY
SIR

NOW SHOULD BE OUR TIME TO ATTACK THEM!
THE TURK'S ATTACK HAS WEAKENED THIS PAST HALF MONTH
YOUNG NOBLEMAN, ISN'T NOW THE TIME TO STRIKE THEM?
THIS SNOW IS A GIFT FROM THE HEAVENS!
AND YET, ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW MANY SOLDIERS WE ARE LOSING, COMPARED TO THEM?
WE HAVE USED OUR WALLS TO OUR ADVANTAGE AND HAVE KEPT UP OUR DEFENSES, AND THE TURKS ARE INEXPERIENCED IN BESIEGING A CITY
.....
THE NUMBER OF OUR DEAD, DOUBLES THEIRS
TWICE THE AMOUNT
IF IT WERE NOT FOR THIS SNOW,
WE WOULD NOT LAST ANOTHER 3 DAYS

WE NEED TO HOLD
WE JUST NEED TO HOLD OUT UNTIL THE BATTLE AT CHANGAN FINISHES, AND THEY ARE ABLE TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS
BUT WE CAN'T STAY HERE AND WAIT TO DIE...?
SOMEBODY!
YES, WHAT IS IT?
USE TO FREEZE OVER AND REINFORCE THE WALLS
ALSO, HAVE SEVERAL LARGE JUGS FULL OF WATER AND HAVE SOME FIREWOOD READY
NO, WITH FREEZING COLD WATER
SO DON'T LET THE WATER FREEZE OVER
YES SIR
SO WE'RE GOING TO SPLASH THEM WITH SCALDING HOT WATER?

WHY IS THE GOVER-NORS WIFE HERE?
HELPING OUT WITH THE WOUNDED
THE CITIZENS HAVE BEEN STRENG-THENED BY THE KINDNESS SHOWN BY THE WIFE

CAPTAIN LI
MA'AM
TO BE AT A DIRTY AND COLD PLACE LIKE THIS IS UNBEFITTING FOR YOU
LET US RETURN TO THE HOUSE TOGETHER
I'M FINE
THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO TO HELP OUT AFTER ALL
RIGHT NOW THE VERY EXISTANCE OF SHUO PROVINCE RESTS ON YOUR SHOULDERS
PLEASE KEEP THAT IN MIND AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

MA'AM..
THE COLOUR OF YOUR FACE DOESN'T LOOK VERY WELL
DO NOT KEEP IT IN, YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR ATLEAST ONCE
ONCE THIS BATTLE FINISHES
CAPTAIN LI!!
THE SCOUT WE SENT TO CHANGAN HAS RETURNED!
GOVERNOR GONGSUN IS CALLING FOR YOU!
SOMEONE, BRING ME A HORSE!

I NEED TO GO NOW, MA'AM, PLEASE HEAD BACK TO YOUR HOUSE AS WELL!
QIN
I AM HERE, MY LADY
GO WITH CAPTAIN LI
PLEASE SEE TO HOW MY HUSBAND IS DOING
YES
PROVINCIAL OFFICE

HOW GOES IT IN CHANGAN!?
GOVERNOR GONGSUN!!
I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT CHANGAN IS VICTORIOUS!!
NOW, NOW GIVE US THE DETAILS
ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO, THE GREAT KHAN OF THE TURKS BROKE THROUGH QING PROVINCE, AND PASSED NEAR CHANGAN
AND THEIR 200 000 TROOPS SET UP CAMP NEAR THE NORTHERN SHORE OF YISHUI RIVER

IN THE END THE KHAN RETREATED WITHOUT MOVING FORWARD A SINGLE FOOT BEYOND THE BRIDGE
THE KHAN FOUND THE BRAZEN ATTITUDE OF THE EMPEROR AS EVIDENCE THAT CHANGAN WAS SUFFICIENTLY STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THEM, AND LOST THE WILL TO ATTACK
AGAINST SUCH A FORCE THE EMPEROR WENT TO MEET WITH THEM ON THE BRIDGE OVER YISHUI RIVER, WITH ONLY 6 OF HIS GUARD, TO OFFER TERMS OF NON-AGRESSION TO THE KHAN
HMPH
AS EXPECTED OF HIM
THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE EMPEROR WAS WELL KNOWN SINCE THE TIME HE WAS THE RULER OF QING

AND SO HAVE THE SOLDIERS WE SENT TO CHANGAN RETURNED?
WHAT ABOUT OUR REQUEST FOR REINFORCE-MENTS?
WELL...
WHEN I LEFT CHANGAN
THEY HAD STILL NOT GIVEN ME AN ANSWER
WHAT! BUT A LOT OF TIME HAS PASSED, SINCE THE TURKS RETREAT!
NOT ONLY THAT BUT...
APPARENTLY OUR REQUEST FOR REINFORCEMENTS HASN'T EVEN REACHED THE EARS OF THE HIGHER UPS

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BEST TO COME BACK AND REPORT THIS...
I HAD BEEN WAITING FOR A WHILE, BUT
SIR
YOU'RE DISMISSED, GO AND REST UP
GOOD WORK

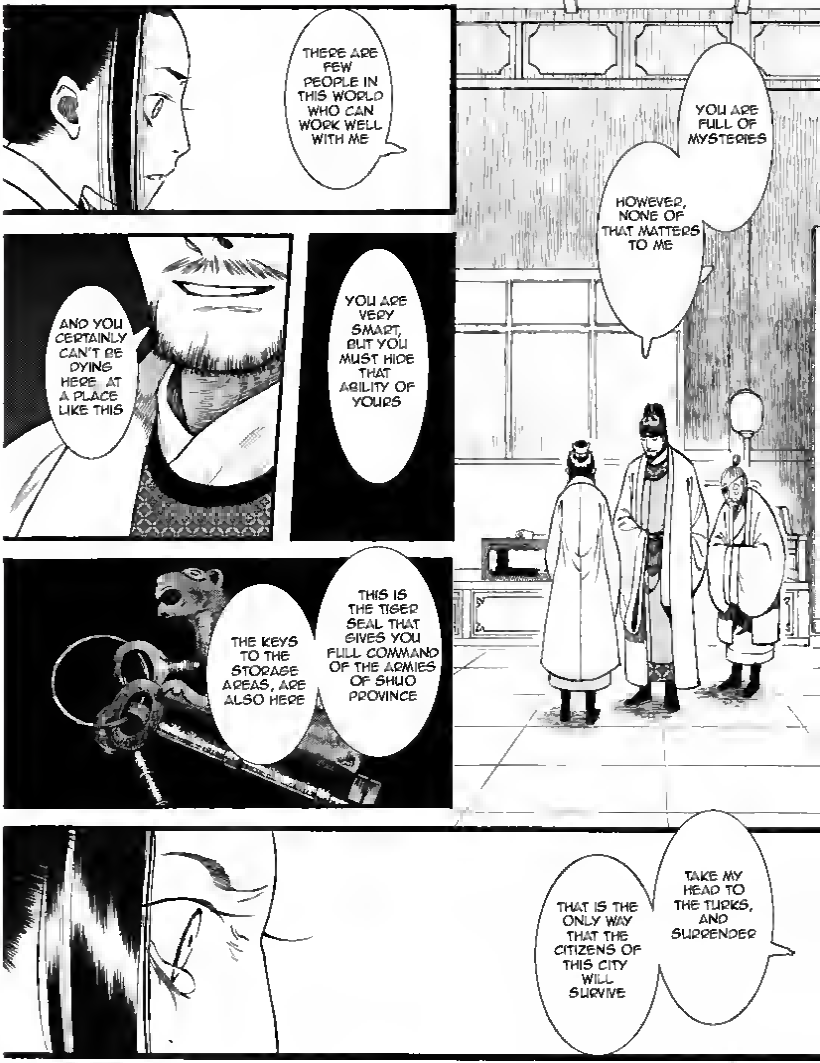
SIR, THIS IS...
WE'RE BEING THROW AWAY
THERE'S NO DENYING IT NOW
WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, IS CORRECT
WE'RE BEING OFFERED UP TO THE TURKS

I HAVE OTHER SCHEMES
SIR GONG SUN
WE MAKE IT APPEAR AS THOUGH WE'RE RUNNING AWAY FROM THE CITY
BUT WE SET UP GUNPOWDER AROUND THE CITY!
WHEN THE TURKS ENTER THIS CITY, WE LIGHT IT UP
WITH THE STRENGTH OF THESE WINDS WE CAN BURN THEM ALL TO A CRISP!

IT'S A GOOD STRATEGY, IT WILL WORK VERY WELL
HOW-EVER
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT TO PROTECT, THE MOST, IN THIS PROVINCE?
WHAT I WANT TO PROTECT, ISN'T A MILITARY STRONGHOLD
IT'S THE SHUO PROVINCE ITSELF, WHERE CITIZENS CAN PEACE-FULLY LIVE INSIDE

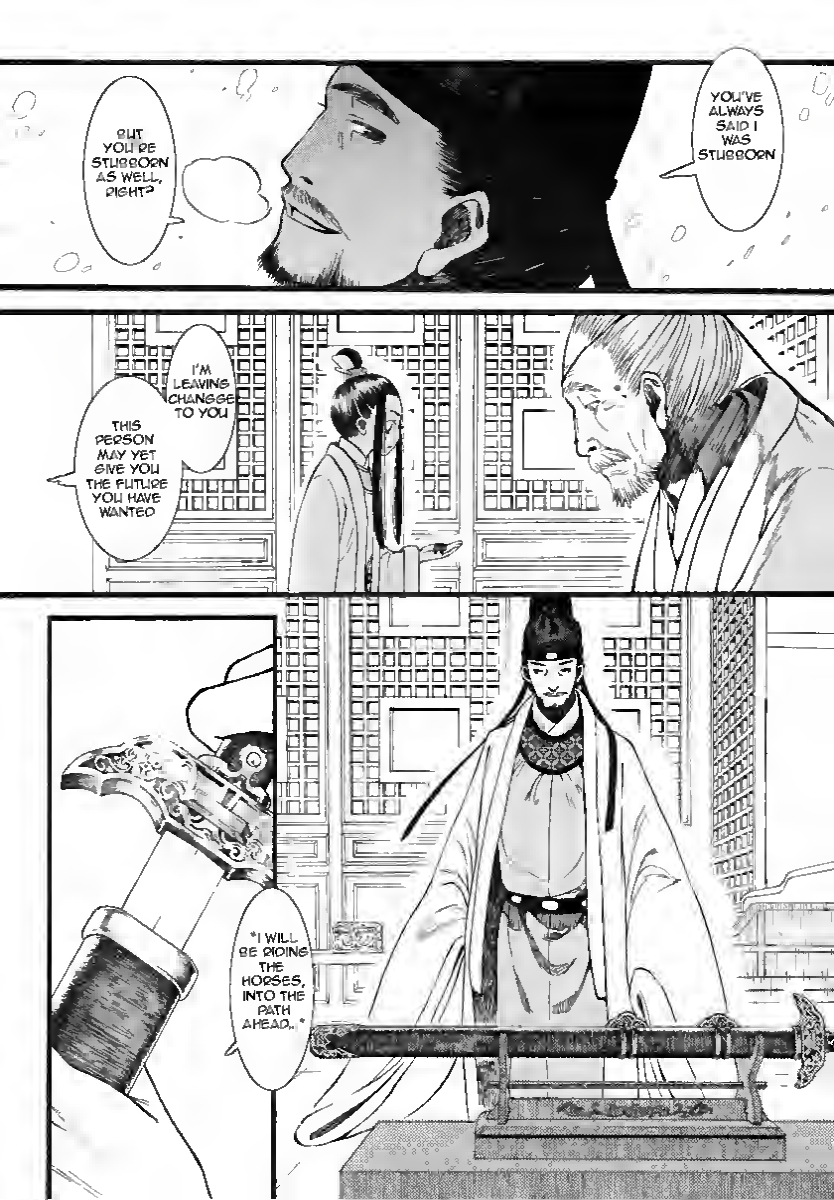
IF WE DO THAT, THE TURKS WILL KILL ALL THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE CITY!
OPEN THE GATES
LET'S SURRENDER
TAKE THIS TO THEM

HUH...
QIN, HELP HIM UNDERSTAND IT BETTER
MY ACUPUNCTURE POINTS... I CAN'T MOVE
YOUR TIMING IS GOOD
MASTER SONG SUN
LISTEN, CHANG GE...


THERE ARE FEW PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO CAN WORK WELL WITH ME
YOU ARE FULL OF MYSTERIES
HOWEVER, NONE OF THAT MATTERS TO ME
YOU ARE VERY SMART, BUT YOU MUST HIDE THAT ABILITY OF YOURS
AND YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T BE DYING HERE AT A PLACE LIKE THIS
THIS IS THE TIGER SEAL THAT GIVES YOU FULL COMMAND OF THE ARMIES OF SHUO PROVINCE
THE KEYS TO THE STORAGE AREAS, ARE ALSO HERE
TAKE MY HEAD TO THE TURKS, AND SURRENDER
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY THAT THE CITIZENS OF THIS CITY WILL SURVIVE

I SHALL GIVE YOU THESE KEYS
QIN IS A TRUSTED SUBORDINATE OF MINE, HE WILL HELP YOU WHEN YOU NEED HIM TO
SIR GONG SUN
SO YOU WANT ME TO OVERSEE YOUR DEATH
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO ASK OF ME?
.....

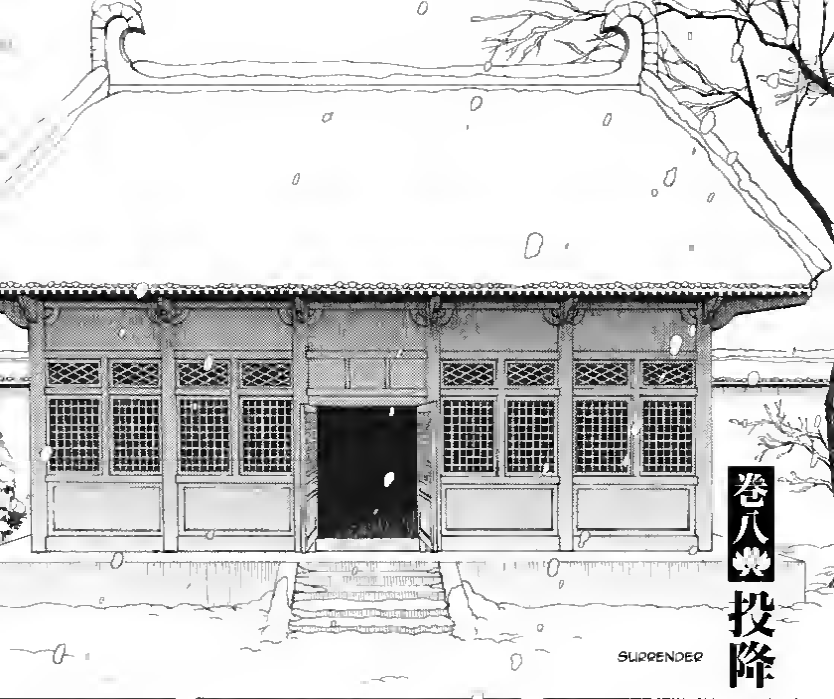
LOOK AT THIS SNOW
THE CROPS NEXT YEAR WILL BE PLENTIFUL
THE MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS INSIDE THIS CITY
NOT ONE OF THEM TRIED TO RUN AWAY DURING THIS WAR


YOU'VE ALWAYS SAID I WAS STUBBORN
BUT YOU'RE STUBBORN AS WELL, RIGHT?
I'M LEAVING CHANGGE TO YOU
THIS PERSON MAY YET GIVE YOU THE FUTURE YOU HAVE WANTED
"I WILL BE RIDING THE HORSES, INTO THE PATH AHEAD."

"AND BEHIND ME, THE TRAIL SHALL CRUMBLE"

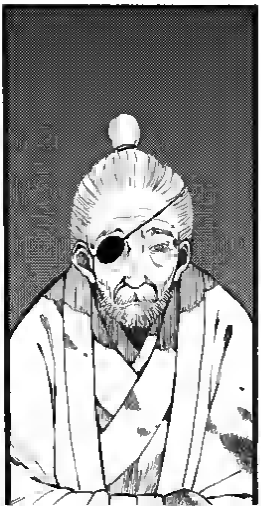
AIZEN HERE

ENJOY



卷八 投降

SURRENDER



WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?

WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP MASTER GONGSUN!!
AND HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?

PLEASE, TELL ME
HOW COULD I HAVE STOPPED HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
LET GO OF THE YOUNG NOBLE-MAN!!

UWAH!
WHAT IS GOING ON, HERE?
QIN?

MY LADY, IT TRULY IS A SHAME
SIR GONGSUN, SAVE HIS LIFE IN ORDER TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE CITIZENS
CAPTAIN LI AND I WILL ENSURE THE SAFETY OF BOTH YOU AND YOUR CHILD

YOU ARE NOT AT FAULT, QIN
I WAS HIS WIFE, I KNEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH A DAY LIKE THIS WOULD COME
PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE WITH MY HUSBAND FOR A BIT
COUGH
COUGH

COUGH
COUGH
YOUNG NOBLEMAN!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
THERE IS NO HELPING IT NOW
WE SHOULD PLAN ABOUT WHAT TO DO FROM NOW ON

WHEN HAD YOU FIRST PLANNED TO DO THIS?
3 DAYS AGO? 5 DAYS AGO?
OR FOR A WHILE, NOW?
YOU HAD NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT DOING THIS
EVEN IN AN AGE LIKE THIS,
MY ONLY WISH WAS FOR US TO PEACEFULLY LIVE OUT OUR LIVES TOGETHER
WAS THAT WISH, TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR?

YOU'VE DONE YOUR DUTY, NOW
YOU DID SPLENDIDLY
YOU PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS, YOU STROVE FOR VIRTUE AND RECEIVED IT IN TURN
I SUPPOSE YOU HAD NO CHOICE IN DOING THIS ... BUT
THIS WILL MOST LIKELY MAKE THE LIFE OF OUR DAUGHTER HARDER
11/17

MY LADY!!
!
NOBLEMAN!

FOOL-ISH...
THE CITIZENS WON'T FEEL ANYTHING FROM THIS AT ALL!
NO ONE IS GOING TO THANK YOU FOR THIS!!
SO FOOLISH!
HIS PATH, FROM THE START WAS ALWAYS FOR THE PEOPLE
SIR GONGSUN DOESN'T EXPECT THEM TO FEEL ANYTHING
I HAVE BEEN ORDE-RED TO SERVE YOU
SO? WHAT IS YOUR PATH?
COUGH...
COUGH

聞 よ
PLEASE LISTEN GRACEFULLY
ください
I, LI CHANGGE, AM THE DAUGHTER OF THE PREVIOUS PRINCE, LI JIANCHENG
I AM THE "YONGNING PRINCESS", WHO HAS BEEN REPORTED AS DECEASED
THE ONE WHO HAS KILLED MY FAMILY AND USURPED THE THRONE, IS MY UNCLE, LI SHIMIN
EVEN IF THE PATH THAT IS WALKED BY MY UNCLE IS APPOINTED BY THE HEAVENS,
THIS IS THE PATH THAT I FOLLOW
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HO HO...
Y-YOU'RE A GIRL!?
I'VE SERVED IN THE SHADOWS OF 5 LORDS, SO FAR
AND AM FAR PAST MY PRIME
ALL THE LORDS I'VE SERVED WITH HAD THE CAPABILITIES OF BECOMING EMPERORS THEM-SELVES
HOWEVER, IN THE END, THEY ALL LOST
AGAINST THE LI FAMILY YOUR FAMILY
ARE YOU STILL INTERESTED IN MY SERVICES?

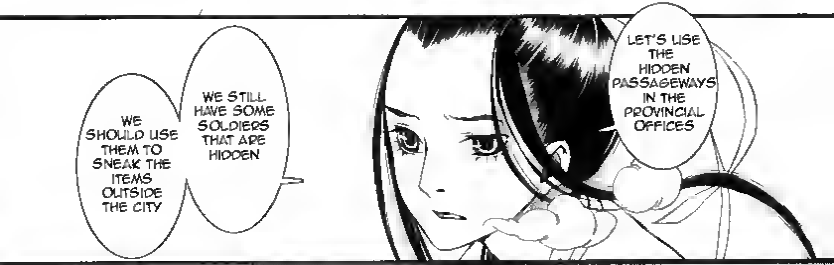
RIGHT
RIGHT
I GUESS SUCH A TURN OF EVENTS, IS ALSO ENTER-TAINING
I, LI CHANG GE,
FORMALLY REQUEST YOUR AID, SIR QIN, FROM HENCE FORTH
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH AN OLD PERSON LIKE ME,
I SHALL WALK THE SAME PATH THAT YOU DO
AS LONG AS MY LIFE, STANDS

IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SEEN A CITY DEFEND ITSELF LIKE THIS
WHEN THE SNOWING STOPS, SHALL WE ATTACK?
YES.
MAN, THEY ARE REALLY STRUGGLING HARD
WELL, THEN, SHALL WE GO DRINK SOME WINE INSIDE
YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE "TACTICS" OF THE HAN, BEFORE

DO THEY LEARN ABOUT HOW TO FIGHT, FROM BOOKS?
HUH?
I'VE FOUGHT IN BATTLES FOR 10 YEARS
MY OPPONENT IS A LITTLE KID.
HUH, DO YOU WANT TO LEARN TACTICS FROM THE HAN?
I'D BE HAPPY TO TEACH YOU!
.....

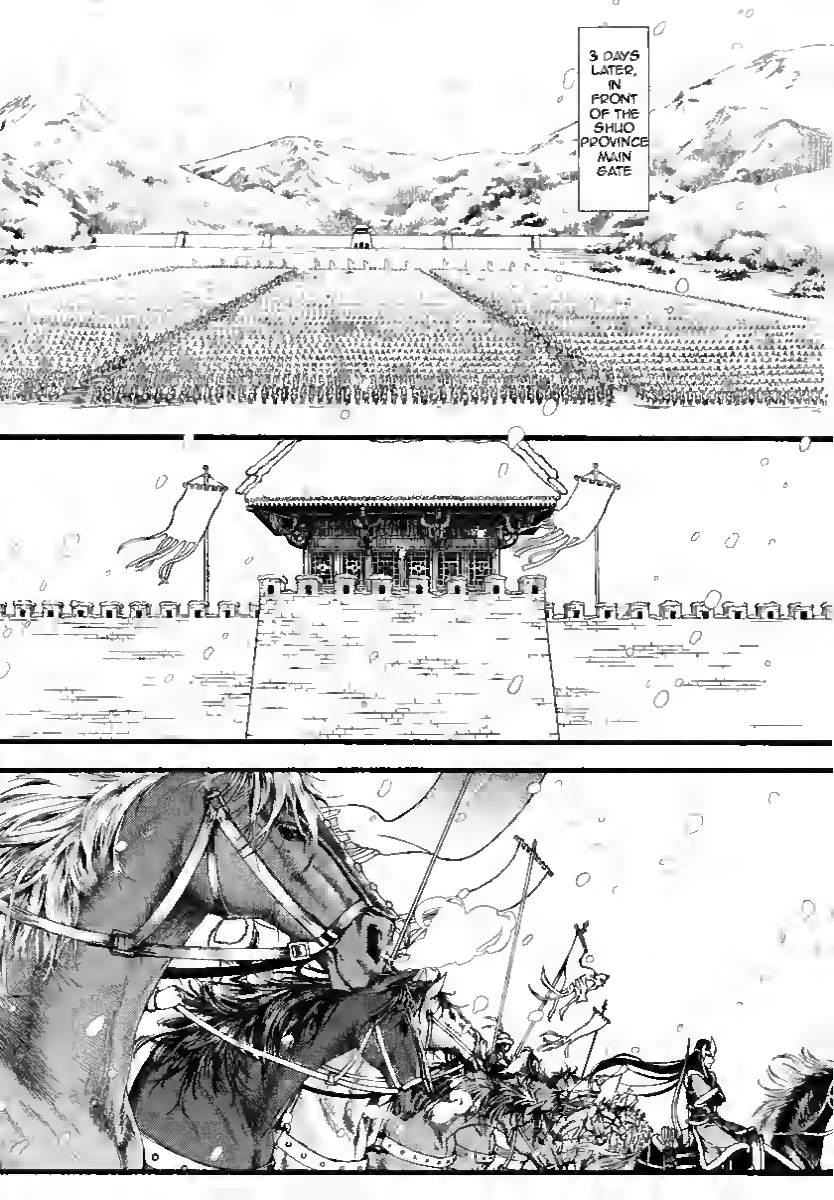
COUGH
WHY ARE YOU PUNISHING YOUR SELF LIKE THAT?
.....
I HAVE INFORMED THE CITIZENS
WE HAVE PREPARED THE WRIT FOR SURRENDER. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SEND IT TO THEM TOMORROW
COUGH
COUGH
MASTER
PLEASE, REST
I WANT TO TAKE SIR GONG SUN
ON A FINAL TOUR OF THE CITY

SIR QIN,
DID YOU REPLACE THE MONETARY AND WEAPONS MANIFESTS?
YES, TO A THIRD OF IT'S SIZE
WHERE SHALL WE HIDE THE REST?
.....


LET'S USE THE HIDDEN PASSAGEWAYS IN THE PROVINCIAL OFFICES
WE STILL HAVE SOME SOLDIERS THAT ARE HIDDEN
WE SHOULD USE THEM TO SNEAK THE ITEMS OUTSIDE THE CITY

WE NEED TO FIND A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE IT FROM THE TURKS
PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME, SO GO AND REST
COUGH! COUGH!
ALSO...

I WANT YOU TO TAKE SIR GONGSUN'S DAUGHTER ALONG WITH THAT KID OUTSIDE THE CITY
AND DON'T HAVE THEM RETURN, WITHOUT MY EXPLICIT ORDER
YOU'RE NOT SURE THAT THEY WILL ACCEPT YOUR SURRENDER?
THE DAUGHTER AND THE FAMILY FORTUNE THAT SIR GONGSUN LEFT, I WILL LEAVE IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS
I INTEND TO USE SIR GONGSUN'S HEAD TO HELP SHUO PROVINCE SURVIVE
I CANNOT FAIL


3 DAYS LATER, IN FRONT OF THE SHUO PROVINCE MAIN GATE

I WAS SURPRISED THAT YOU HAD..
ACCEPTED THEIR SURRENDER
ARE THEY REALLY SURRENDERING THIS TIME?
I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY
IF IT'S NOT, WE'LL JUST KILL THEM ALL

HM?
SHUO PROVINCE CAPTAIN LI CHANGGE
SURRENDER ON BEHALF OF THE CITY

GOVERNOR SONG SUN HENG ENDED HIS LIFE TO ATONE FOR THE CRIMES OF THE CITY
PLEASE ABSOLVE YOUR FURY ON BEHALF OF HIS ACTIONS
THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNOR IS INSIDE. PLEASE CONFIRM

THE PERSON I'VE BEEN FIGHTING ALL ALONG
WAS A SCRAWNY LITTLE FEAMLE-LOOKING GUY LIKE YOU
IF YOU THINK THIS ATONES FOR EVEN THE SMALLEST OF CRIMES
ALL THE RICHES INSIDE THE CITY ARE YOURS
THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN COMPARE TO THE CRIME OF OUR FUTILE STRUGGLE
PLEASE DO NOT HARM THE LIVES OF THOSE INSIDE THE CITY WALLS

YOU'RE BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE?
WHY SHOULD I,
FORGIVE YOU?

AIZEN HERE

ENJOY